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PastWatch - December 1994

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Past Watch



Volume Three, Numbers Three/Four, December 1994. Newsletter of the Archaeological Research Trust of The South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina

ART GRANTS GIVEN TO THREE SCIAA RESEARCHERS

The Archaeological Research Trust's (ART) long future in the preservation of South Carolina's unique cultural heritage is well on its way! We are proud to announce the receipt of three supporting grants that have been given to SCIAA researchers. In November 1994, the Trust Board awarded a total of \$1650.00 in grants that have been made possible by the earnings from the contributions to ART by its donors since November 1991. In an effort to recognize and thank all donors who have made a contribution to ART, they are listed on page 7. Please consider giving a contribution to ART in 1995!

The following projects were funded by ART donations in late 1994:

Faunal Analysis of the Interdisciplinary Frontier Research Project (Meyer Farm Excavations). Dr. Dave Crass received \$500.00 to defray the cost of the faunal analysis from the Meyer Farm excavation. This site is located in the New Windsor Township (modern Beech Island, SC). New Windsor existed as a Swiss settlement from 1737-ca. 1800, after which the Swiss population seems to have been



Meyer Brothers Farm (38AK615) Excavation Techniques Explained to School Group from Kennedy Middle School

largely absorbed into the dominant English and Scots-Irish communities. This site has yielded a substantial faunal assemblage (ca. 2,000 specimens) from discrete middens dating to various periods in the household's life, in addition to a rich assemblage of material culture relating to the frontier period.

Publication of the manuscript *Discovery in Wachovia*. Stan South received \$800.00 for partial payment for a word processor/editor person to prepare this manuscript for publication. This year is the 30th anniversary of Stan's excavation and development of the ruins of this 18th century town and fort at Bethabara, NC, which is now an historic park administered by the city of Winston-Salem. An archaeological seminar was recently held at Bethabara

to commemorate the work of those archaeologists who have worked on the ruins of Bethabara. The last manuscript that Stan wrote before coming to South Carolina was the results of his research at that historic pioneering Moravian settlement. It is a photographic and documentary record of the history of the town. It will be published in the *Volumes in Historical Archaeology* series, published at SCIAA and edited by Stan South.

Publication of the manuscript *Childbirth and Infant Care Among Native Americans in the Southeast*. Elizabeth Collins received \$350.00 for final preparation of this manuscript for publication. This publication will review and investigate the roll of childbirth and early child care as a reflection of the cultural beliefs of Native Americans, and other tribal level societies, and thus will provide a tool for archaeological and anthropological investigation of previous lifeways. The document will also serve as a guide for anthropologists in the collection of ethnographic data which could then be utilized by archaeologists considering alternate interpretations of site level data, such as menstrual / birthing huts or unique burials.

SANTA ELENA PROJECT LABORATORY ANALYSIS

By Chester B. DePratter and Stanley South

PastWatch, published twice a year, is the newsletter of the Archaeological Research Trust, SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina

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Fieldwork! That's what archaeology is all about. What could be more fun than being outdoors, uncovering new and exciting finds with every scrape of the trowel? Visitors sit enthralled in the bleachers listening to lectures on the most recent discoveries and watching every move made by the field crew. News teams and ETV crews videotape our activities in order to capture the excavation process on tape and preserve it for eternity.

Actually, fieldwork is just the recovery process that begins a long period of laboratory analysis during which the most meaningful "discoveries" are made. News stories (both broadcast and in print) and documentaries most frequently focus on the fieldwork, and as a result the general public is most familiar with that aspect of our work. Archaeologists actually spend a much greater part of their time in the laboratory than they do conducting fieldwork. A research project that spends two months in the field will spend an additional 10 to 12 months conducting various analyses and writing the final reports. But even granting agencies are subject to biases created by our public image: it is much easier to get funding for fieldwork than for laboratory analysis and report preparation.

O u r current Santa Elena research is focused on collection processing and analysis in the laboratory. The collections involved in that

analysis are from three seasons of fieldwork. In 1993 and 1994, we excavated a sixteenth century Spanish pottery kiln and the surrounding area, a 40' X 70' block unit in the town of Santa Elena that included a well, and more than 1700 shovel tests in an effort to determine the extent of the town of Santa Elena. These various field projects produced in excess of 40,000 artifacts, not counting the tens of thousands of bone fragments recovered, or the more than 900 pounds of brick and daub from the kiln, or the 23 boxes of shell. Analysis of the artifacts is currently being conducted with funds provided by a U. S. Department of Defense Legacy Program grant. Beginning in October, 1993, we have employed three full-time lab crew members, Marianne Reeves, Patrice White, and Dennis Graham, to conduct the analysis of these collections, which include Spanish, Indian, Plantation period, and U. S. Marine Corps materials. These crew members have spent a total of 32 person months washing, sorting, counting, and bagging the collections.

Another lab crew member and permanent SCIAA employee, Harold Fortune, spent nearly six months sorting and gluing together the more than 50 whole and partial vessels recovered from the pottery kiln. Once those vessels were reconstructed, they were photographed in black and white and in color to provide a com-



*James B. Legg Drawing Ceramic Profiles
from 16th Century Pottery Kiln*

DIRECTOR'S VISTA

Bruce Rippeteau, Director and State Archaeologist

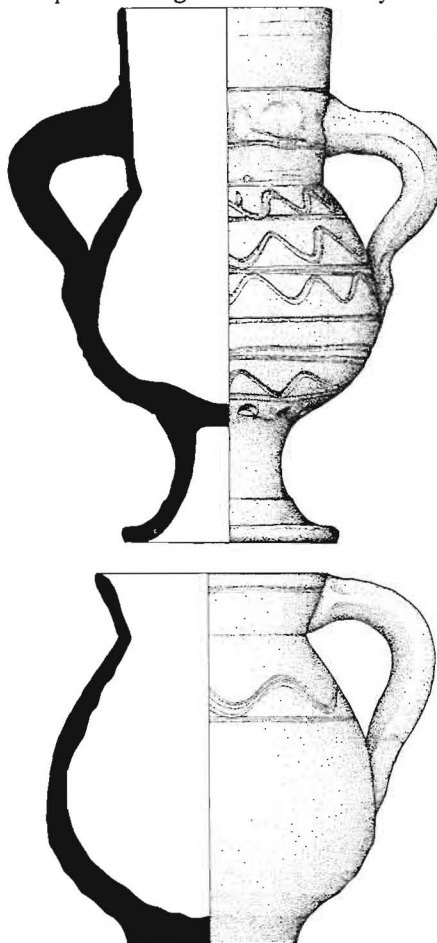
Happy Holiday Greetings! I hope you are well! The Board of Trustees of the SCIAA Archaeological Research Trust (**ART**) recently held two meetings on 27 October 1994 and 21 November 1994. Several decisions were made which will set the stage for the coming 1995 year.

In reviewing the Board of Trustees for citizen's representation, Mr. Roland C. Young, as Chairman of the **ART** Board, reappointed Mr. Tony Harper of Greenville, a businessman. He also invited Mr. Ray Christy, a businessman from Cayce to fill the slot vacated by outgoing Board member Mr. Shipp Harris. We thank Mr. Harris for his interest. Both of these terms will be from 01 January 1995 through 31 December 1996.

The **ART** Board reviewed its SCIAA staff members, and concurred with me as SCIAA Director to appoint two replacements. In November 1994, Dr. Albert C. Goodyear resigned early from the Board in order to pursue private fundraising for his Paleoindian research. With this resignation, I appointed Mr. Chris Amer, Deputy State Archaeologist for Underwater and Head of the Underwater Archaeology Division (term from 21 November 1994 through 31 December 1995). With the end of Mr. Mark Newell's second term, Dr. David Crass, Historic Archaeologist and Curator of the US Department of Energy Savannah River Archaeological Research Program of SCIAA at the Savannah River Site, was appointed to replace Mr. Newell (term from 01 January 1995 through 31 December 1996). By the suggestion of the Chairman, Roland C. Young and the subsequent Board amendment of the Bylaws, a new Board position for Institute representation was created. To fill this term, I appointed Dr. Chester DePratter, Research Archaeologist in the Research Division (term from 01 January 1995 through 31 December 1996).

Appreciating the outstanding work of Dr. Goodyear and Mr. Newell,

the Board resolved to send them letters of special recognition. Dr. Goodyear



*Incised Micaceous Redware Vessels
Recovered from the Kiln of the
Spanish Potter at Santa Elena
Drawings by James B. Legg*

has been a central pillar of **ART** since before inception on 14 November 1991 and has raised by his written appeals a considerable part of our current \$50,000+ endowment. Mr. Newell, similarly a staunch supporter from the beginning gave much time and support to the Board and its work.

The **ART** Board considered several operational issues including a general expansion of the Board, the then upcoming Maya Archaeology Trip led by Ms. Nena Powell, various fundraising efforts, and the production

of this newsletter. The Board awarded, for the second time, endowment earnings, by authorizing grants to Ms. Elizabeth Collins, Mr. Stan South, and Dr. David Crass, all of whom had applied for these research funds as staff at SCIAA. Congratulations to all three.

I would like to inform you of additional major gifts to the **ART** Endowment which has occurred in early December 1994 and of which SCIAA is extremely appreciative! An anonymous benefactor has donated \$20,000, of which \$10,000 will assist the funding of the ongoing archaeological work at the 16th century town of Santa Elena, and the remaining \$10,000 will go into the endowment. We thank Chairman of the Board, Roland C. Young, for making a special donation of \$1,000, which will be matched by State Farm Insurance Companies for a total to our endowment of \$2,000! We are very appreciative of the great leadership of our chairman and his generosity! We are also very grateful to Ms. Elizabeth Stringfellow, who has given the endowment a generous donation before the end of 1994. Thank you!

I also want to make a special thanks and recognize all of you who gave during 1994, especially the donors who accompanied Ms. Nena Powell on the Maya archaeology trip to Belize, Southern Mexico, and Guatemala. I know the experience was worthwhile and educational. We are grateful that these contributions will assist in preserving archaeological resources right here in South Carolina.

The Secretary/Treasurer, Mr. Tommy Charles, reports that the **ART** Endowment is now over \$58,000. And we hope that you will consider making a contribution before the end of 1994. We have a long way to go in meeting the goals and missions of the dedicated research staff at SCIAA, and we are so grateful to all of you who have gotten us to this level. Our money is growing for the ages, and we thank you for your support!

ANNOUNCING A NEW BOOK!!

PIONEERS IN HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY: BREAKING NEW GROUND

By Stanley South

"This book was written in 1977 by twelve pioneers in the field of historical archaeology who began their careers between the 1920s and the 1940s, and whose names were well known by those, such as [Stanley South], who began careers in historical archaeology in the 1950s. These men had distinguished themselves in various ways, for example, some through their expertise with artifact identification and typologies of artifacts such as gun parts or beads. Other of these pioneers were known for their excavation and publication of work on particular sites with names such as Jamestown, Awatovi, Fort Frederica, Fatherland, and Like-a-Fishhook village. Some were known for having conducted archaeology on historic sites when there was virtually no precedent for such activity. All were leaders, experts, doers, and publishers of results for sharing with others, energetic, strong, and communicative" (Stanley South, Preface).

In early 1993, Stanley South received an Archaeological Research Trust (**ART**) grant to type and edit this book.

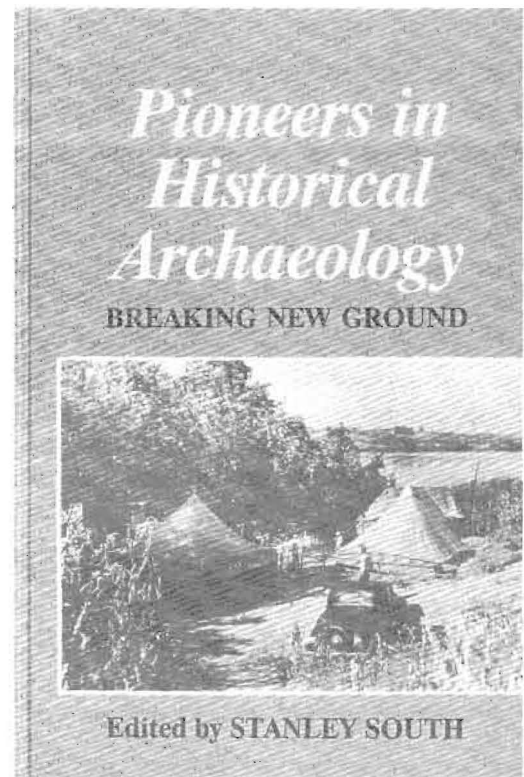
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ART TOUR TO THE MAYA HEARTLAND, A GREAT SUCCESS!!

By Nena Powell, Archaeologist



Jim, Key Marilia, Penny, Raul, Jeannie, and Dale at Becan



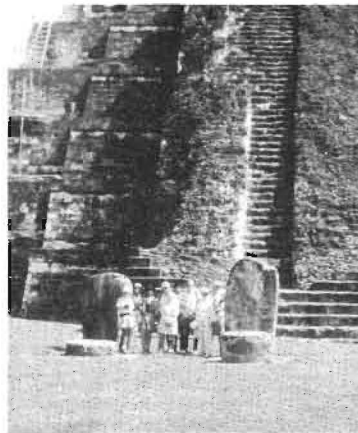
Jeannie, Nena, Jim, Marilia, Key, Penny, Mack, Dale, and Raul at Caracol



Mack, Marilia, Key, Penny, Jeannie, Dale, Jim, and Raul at the Temple of the Masks, Kohunlich, Southern Mexico



Jaguar at the Belize Zoo



Group in Grand Plaza at Tikal



Mack and Key Climbing Down Canaa Temple at Caracol

During November 1-11, 1994, the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) sponsored a special **ART** Supporter Tour of important archaeological sites in the Yucatan Peninsula of Belize, Southern Mexico, and Guatemala which provided a very interesting and educational glimpse into the heartland of **THE MAYA CULTURE**. The trip went beautifully as planned, and we were able to add a few other activities to the busy agenda. There were eight **ART** donors, including myself, who were accompanied by a local, native guide throughout the trip. The group participants included **Ms. Jeannie Croxton** from Columbia, **Ms. Marilia Gutierrez** from San Juan, Puerto Rico, **Mrs. Dale Oliver Horrigan** from Myrtle Beach, **Mr. and Mrs. J. Key Powell** from Columbia, **Mr. Mack Rhodes** from Florence, and **Mr. Jim Townsend** from Greenville. **Senior Raul Valencia**, our local guide, is from San Juan Succotz, Belize. The **ART** Endowment raised \$1435.00.

Photographs taken by trip leader, Nena Powell

Santa Elena Laboratory Analysis (Continued)

plete documentation of this important collection. Color slides for use in lectures remain to be made. An archaeologist/draftsman, Jim Legg, spent three months making measured drawings of the pots for use in the project report and other publications.

Chester DePratter has been involved in the analysis of the Indian pottery from the collection, while Stan South has been busy compiling and computerizing the literally hundreds of pages of spreadsheets necessary to properly record and store all of the artifact counts resulting from the various analyses. As a result of the discovery of the pottery kiln at Santa Elena, we have reexamined and reclassified all of the Spanish ceramics previously discovered in excavation blocks in the town of Santa Elena, a total of an additional 15,000 sherds.

Plant parts and insect parts recovered from the well will be subjected to specialized analysis within the next couple of months. Food bone recovered during the 1993-1994 seasons will be analyzed and identified by Dr. Elizabeth Reitz of the University of Georgia. Her analysis will tell us what kinds of animals were being consumed by the Spanish and in what frequency. Shells from several features are being ana-

lyzed by Dr. David Lawrence, an USC geologist. His work will help us understand the source of the shellfish collected by the Spanish and perhaps the season(s) of the year in which they were being collected.

While all of these laboratory analyses have been taking place, Chester DePratter has been conducting library research on 16th century potting and pottery in an effort to better understand the kiln and the pots that were made in it. This process has necessitated obtaining literally dozens of books and articles in Spanish, French, and English through the Interlibrary Loan office at USC's Thomas Cooper Library.

Another aspect of our research has been the production of computer-generated maps showing the distribution of various artifact types recovered during excavation of nearly 1400 shovel tests excavated to discover the limits of the town of Santa Elena. This work, done by Dennis Graham and Patrice White in conjunction with the USC College of Humanities and Social Sciences Computer Lab, has shown that the town of Santa Elena covers an area of about 15 acres. Concentrations of pottery plotted within that area suggest that there may be about 40 household clusters within the town limits.

Archival research is an important part of research on historic sites, and Santa Elena is no exception. We have been working closely with Dr. Eugene Lyon of the Center for Historic Research at Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida, on this aspect of our research. We have already discovered some exciting new sources describing life at Santa Elena, and our graduate assistant, Susan Ball, is currently working on translating additional documents for us.

Laboratory analysis has been underway for more than a year, and there are still a multitude of additional tasks to be accomplished before the job is completed. At present, we have two full-time employees, Jim Legg and Dennis Graham, working on the collections and drafting figures for the report. We are just beginning the task of taking the results of these varied analyses and combining and interpreting them to produce the final reports. Our two final reports are due to be delivered to the appropriate officials on Parris Island in March and September, 1995, respectively. We have a long way to go before the task is completed, but we are looking forward to seeing the finished product which will be, in great part, the result of diligent effort by our colleagues.

UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY CERTIFICATION OPPORTUNITIES

By Chris Amer

Hobby (sport) diving has been licensed in South Carolina since the 1970s. With a hobby license, divers can collect fossils and artifacts, if they provide a list of items they collect to the Underwater Archaeology Division at the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA).

To help divers identify and record their finds, SCIAA staff offer basic archaeological training, including a field manual. Divers attending annual field schools get classroom and laboratory instruction, swimming pool and open water sessions, and practical ex-

perience. The Sport Diver Archaeology Management Program (SDAMP) has also implemented a Workshop Series that deal with nautical skills, chart



*Carl Naylor and Joe Beatty
Excavating Parris Island Canoe*

navigation, and historic ceramic and bottle identification, to name a few.

Several workshops in the SDAMP Workshop Series have been held and will be repeated in the future. While the workshops are open to the public, they are part of a four-tier educational program for the state's licensed hobby divers and consists of SDAMP Field Training Courses (FTC) which are a two-and-one-half-day program of lectures and pool training and introduces the participants to the concepts and principles of underwater archaeology, the legislation pertaining to under-



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Underwater Archaeology (Continued)

water antiquities, pre-disturbance surveying methods, and artifact and site types in South Carolina. Cost of the FTC is \$70 per participant. **The next FTC is scheduled for February 24-26, 1995**, and will be held in Columbia at SCIAA headquarters on the University of South Carolina campus. Another FTC is planned for the summer in Charleston.

"An active combination of recreation and cultural resource management," says Chris Amer, Deputy State Archaeologist for Underwater at SCIAA and newly appointed Board Member of **ART**, "has made South Carolina a national leader in promoting education about underwater archaeological sites."

For more information on the workshops, meetings, conferences, or the SDAMP Educational Program contact Lynn Harris at SCIAA: (803) 762-6105.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

By Roland C. Young

As we all look back over this great archaeological year of 1994, we find many successes and the realization of the dreams we had in January 1994. Good things are happening in archaeology because of dedicated professional and avocational archaeologists in South Carolina. Please take a look at the long list of donors for the **Archaeological Research Trust**. Please thank these people if you have an opportunity. An awful lot of folks go through life saying, "I don't know what happened". Others might say, "Why do things happen to me". But I can tell you that the **ART** donors are making it happen for you and me and the people of South Carolina. Thank you for another great year! God bless you and yours, and please don't forget to adopt your favorite archaeologist in 1995! Our mission is to protect the non-renewable resource. Please help by making a contribution to the **Archaeological Research Trust** in 1995.

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